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SOURCE

Magyar Nemzet.

ANTITUBERCULOSIS DRUG "IZONYCID"

Izonycid is the trade name for Hungary's newest weapon against tuberculosis. Chemically it is known as isonicotinic acid hydrocide. Originally made by the Kobanyai Gyogyszergyar (Kobanya Drug Factory) under the name of Rimifon, the new drug has been available to the public since 9 March 1952.

Currently it is being used in the Koranyi Sanatorium in Budakeszi, under the direction of Dr Pal Dessauer, chief of the medical staff.

According to Dr Irene Barat, who has been attending tubercular patients at the sanatorium for 25 years, the new drug causes fever to disappear, stimulates the appetite, and brings about a pronounced feeling of well-being which is soon followed by gain in weight.

Dr Barat adds that izonycid is not a cure in itself, since lesions of the lungs persist, and destroyed tissue is not regenerated. She feels, however, that the value of the drug is that it gives the system ε chance to cure itself, that it can be given in small doses in tablet form and is effective without upsetting the stomach.

It still remains to be determined whether izonycid actually destroys bacteria or merely excests their development. The latter is probably the case since the bacteria become resistant to the drug after prolonged treatment. However, if treatment is interrupted for a time, the drug regains its effectiveness. Izonycid is generally prescribed for a period ranging from 8 weeks to a maximum of 16 weeks.

Doctors Sandor Marton, Istvan Seri, Endre Sandor, and Imre Ungar, as well as physicians of the Koranyi Sanatorium, have the following to say about the new drug:

"Izonycid stimulates hormone production and has a very favorable effect on the central nervous system. In light cases it may make hospitalization unnecessary; in serious cases it makes surgery possible."

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Today, Hungary has 9,000 beds available for tuberculosis victims. The Koranyi Sanatorium is organizing the Orszagos Tuberkulozis Intezet (National Institute for Tuberculosis) at present.

Izonycid is now made at the Kobanyai Gyogyszergyar, the Chinoin Gyar (Chinoin Factory), and the Gyogyszeripari Kutato Intezet (Pharmaceutical Research Institute). These plants can meet the national demand for the drug and will be producing for export in the near future.

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